

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, and 4-7 have been amended. Claims 8-20 have been cancelled. New Independent Claim 21 has been added. Claims 1-7 and 21 remain pending in the application, with Claim 1 and Claim 21 being independent claims. Favorable reconsideration of the application, as amended and in view of the following remarks, is respectfully requested.

The Examiner rejected Claims 1, 8, 14 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Specifically, the Examiner asserted that the language "a common printed circuit board base adapted to accept all of the plurality of different types of illumination sources" (found in previously pending Claims 1, 8, and 14) was not properly described in the application as filed. The applicants have amended independent Claim 1 to remove this language and have cancelled Claims 8 and 14. Applicants believe that this objection should be withdrawn and respectfully request that this objection be withdrawn.

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Hymer US 6,840,660. According to the Examiner, Hymer discloses a method of installing a light assembly including all the elements in claim 1, the elements comprising a common printed circuit board base (10 in Fig. 13) adapted to accept all of the plurality of different types of illumination sources; a plurality of different types of illumination sources (38 and 70 in Fig. 13) attached to the common printed circuit board base; and a plurality of trim bezels 116 in Fig. 16) adapted to accept the common printed circuit board base.

The applicants have amended independent Claim 1 to more clearly differentiate the present invention from the cited prior art documents, and in particular the Hymer reference. Specifically, Claim 1 now defines a method of installing a modular light assembly in a vehicle including the steps of providing first and second modular light assemblies having different types of illumination sources and providing a trim bezel having a single common mounting location adapted to accept either one of the first and the second modular light assemblies. One of the first and the second modular light assemblies is then mounted to the common location.

The Hymer reference does not disclose or suggest the method of amended Claim 1. In particular, Hymer teaches a light assembly including a single printed circuit board base (10 in Fig. 13) adapted to accept all of a plurality of different types of illumination sources; the illumination sources placed in a variety of locations on the board; and all of the plurality of different types of illumination sources (38 and 70 in Fig. 13) are attached to the single printed circuit board base. There is no disclosure or suggestion in Hymer that a single common mounting location of a trim bezel can be adapted to accept either of the two different types of illumination sources/circuit boards.

Applicants' invention enables a vehicle interior designer to design a single trim bezel capable of accepting two different light sources (e.g., incandescent bulbs or light emitting diodes) at a single mounting location, and then provide the customer with the option of selecting different lighting packages having different lighting sources. Depending on which light source is selected by the customer, the light sources selected by the customer can readily be installed at the single mounting location.

Accordingly, it is believed that independent Claim 1 and dependent Claims 2-7 are patentable over the Hymer reference.

Applicants have added new independent Claim 21, which is essentially identical to independent Claim 1, but specifically defines an incandescent bulb as a first type of illumination source and a light emitting diode as a second type of illumination source. It is believed that Claim 21 is patentable for the same reasons set forth above per Claim 1.

In view of the amendments and above remarks, it is believed that the application is now in condition for allowance.